



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Your Reference: P14274GB-JDB/va
Application No: GB 0008684.3

17 May 2000

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977:
Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 9 April 2001

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **5 September 2000**. You will then receive a letter informing you of completion and telling you the publication number and date of publication.

Amendment/withdrawal

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application, or to withdraw the application to prevent publication, you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. **No reminder will be issued.** If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before the above completion date, please mark your letter prominently: **"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

†Use of E-mail: Please note that under patent law e-mail may be used to file correspondence only.



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Application No: GB 0008684.3

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Yours faithfully

Matthew J. Tosh
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could **prominently indicate** in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



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Application No: GB 0008684.3
Claims searched: 1-6

Examiner: Matthew J. Tosh
Date of search: 16 May 2000

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Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): F1C (CFB), F2A (AD04, AD26, AD66)

Int Cl (Ed.7): F04D 29/04, F16C 19/02, 19/04, 19/08, 19/10, 19/14, 19/18, 32/04, 33/58, 39/06

Other: ONLINE: EPODOC, WPI, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	JP 11101236 (NIPPON SEIKO KK). See abstract and figures.	
A	JP 11257353 (NTN CORP.). See abstract and Figures 1-3.	

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.

& Member of the same patent family

A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.

E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



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Patents Act 1977

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Clarity and Support (Sections 14(5)(b) and 14(5)(c))

1. It is not clear from claim 1 whether or not a rolling bearing *per se* is being claimed. Since double-row rolling bearings are well known in the art, claim 1 and claims appendant thereto should be more properly directed to an arrangement comprising the rolling bearing, magnetic bearing and the shaft. Also in claim 1, "upon rotation stoppage" implies that the rolling bearing only supports the shaft once it has stopped. It is suggested therefore that "upon rotation stoppage" be replaced by "when the magnetic bearing stops functioning". Further, the use of "on the side" to describe the positioning of the rolling bearing and the races lacks the necessary clarity. A better description would be "adjacent" or "adjacent to".
2. The summary of invention on pages 5 and 6 only states the aims of the invention and consequently does not agree with claim 1. What seems to be a summary of the invention appears on lines 1-10, page 7 under the heading "Detailed Description of the Invention", which it should not strictly form part of. The summary of invention on pages 5 and 6 should therefore be substituted with lines 1-10, page 7 in order to agree with claim 1.
3. Claim 5 does not appear to be supported by the description.
4. Claim 7 is indeterminate in scope and should be deleted.
5. On line 2, page 10, it is not clear as to what is meant by "the rigidity of the inner race is about twice".
6. Your attention is drawn to a small error on line 6, page 10. "Diapeared" should in fact read "disappeared".
7. The last paragraph on page 11 is unclear in scope and should be removed.